

Abstract of the Disclosure

A cordless telephone according to one embodiment of the invention includes a base unit and a handset, wherein the handset includes a keypad, a key scan element adapted to scan the keypad for a predetermined key sequence, and a controller adapted to cause the initiation of an outgoing call based on a determination of the predetermined key sequence. In one embodiment, the predetermined key sequence is 9-1-1. In an alternative embodiment according to the invention, a method of placing a telephone call from a cordless telephone handset that is in an on-hook condition includes the steps of sensing the activation of a predetermined key sequence, and initiating a telephone call based on the sensed activation. The telephone call may be to a telephone number corresponding to the predetermined key sequence, such as 9-1-1.